

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-30 have been cancelled. Claims 31-84 have been added, with claims 31, 47, 62, 69, and 76 being the independent claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments introduce no new matter. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Interview Summary

The undersigned appreciates the time and attention extended by Examiners Kessler and Cardone during the personal interview conducted on April 17, 2008. During the interview, the disclosures of U.S. Patent Application No. US 2003/0167311 A1 to Kirsch et al. ("*Kirsch*"), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0182379 A1 to Henry et al. ("*Henry*"), and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0236838 A1 to Tout et al. ("*Tout*"), were discussed in light of the proposed new independent claims similar to those presented above.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 5, and 8 were objected to for reciting "means for receiving a confirmation request from said sending device." The objection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1, 5, and 8.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kirsch*, in view of *Henry*. These rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-30.

Claims 31-84 Are Allowable over the Cited Art

Applicants respectfully submit that newly presented independent claims 31, 47, 62, 69, and 76, and their respective dependent claims, are all allowable over *Kirsch* and *Henry*, alone or in combination. Each of claims 31, 47, 62, and 69 recite:

receiving a confirmation request that includes identification data purporting to uniquely identify an electronic message; and
searching a data store for the identification data.

None of the applied references, alone or in combination, discloses receiving such a confirmation request or searching a data store for identification data contained in the confirmation request.

Newly presented independent claim 76 recites:

receiving from a sending device a first electronic message authorized by an originator;
sending to a confirmation device a first confirmation request;
receiving from the sending device a second electronic message authorized by the originator;
sending to a confirmation device a second confirmation request.

None of the applied references, alone or in combination, discloses sending a separate such confirmation request for each electronic message received from the originator of the messages.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that such rejections be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding office action and thus that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further

personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

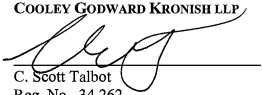
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Respectfully submitted,
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